

PEANUT MOUNTAIN ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT UNIT PROPOSED ACTIONS OUACHITA NATIONAL FOREST – POTEAU/COLD SPRINGS RANGER DISTRICT SCOTT COUNTY, ARKANSAS	OCTOBER 2020
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The District Ranger on the Poteau-Cold Springs Ranger District, Ouachita National Forest, proposes to implement management activities in the Peanut Mountain Ecological Management Unit (Compartments 1260, 1261, 1272, and 1280), henceforth referred to as Peanut Mountain. Activities proposed include timber harvesting, silvicultural treatments, wildlife treatments, and road system improvements. These activities should begin in 2021, if an action alternative is selected.

Peanut Mountain project area consists of 6,366 acres of national forest lands and 483 acres of private land. See the table below.

Summary of existing National Forest lands, private ownership in the *Peanut Mountain Creek* analysis area. These are **approximate** acres only based on Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

Land Designation	Total
National Forest Management Areas	
MA 22 (Renewal of the Shortleaf Pine/Bluestem Grass Ecosystem and Red-cockaded Woodpecker Habitat – Suitable for Timber Harvest)	4,949
MA 22 (Renewal of the Shortleaf Pine/Bluestem Grass Ecosystem and Red-cockaded Woodpecker Habitat – Unsuitable for Timber Harvest)	1,417
Total Acres of National Forest	6,366
Private acres within boundary	483
Total Acres within project area (private and NF lands)	6,849

Peanut Mountain MA 22 - Age Class Distribution for All Forested Land By Forest Type Projected For 2020								
Age Class	(Acres)						Acres	Percent
	SLP	Pine/Hwd	Hardwood	Hwd/Pine	Lob	River		
0 – 10						1	1	0%
11 – 20	42						42	1%
21 – 30	560		74				634	10%
31 – 40	504						504	8%
41 – 50	260						260	4%
51 – 60	393						393	6%
61 – 70							0	0%
71 – 80	213	304		190			707	11%
81 – 90	360	152	62	74			648	10%
91-100	1,773	290					2,063	32%
101-110	197	13					210	3%
111-120	899						899	14%
121-130				5			5	0%
131-140							0	0%
141-150							0	0%
151-160							0	0%
160+							0	0%
Acres	5,201	759	136	269	0	1	6,366	
Percent	82%	12%	2%	4%	0%	0%		100%

	Acres	Percent
Shortleaf Pine Forest Type (Forested Area)	5,960	94%
Hardwood Forest Type (Forested Area)	405	6%
River	1	0%
Total	6,366	100%
Mature Pine >= 80	4,106	64%
Mature Hardwood > =100	5	0%
Additional Mature Pine in the next 10 years	95	1%
Subtract Modified Seed Tree method of regeneration	398	
Total	-303	-5%
Additional Mature Hardwood in the next 10 years	62	1%
Total Mature Pine in the next 10 years	3,803	60%
Total Mature Hardwood in the next 10 years	67	1%
Total Mature Pine and Hardwood in the next 10 years	3,870	61%

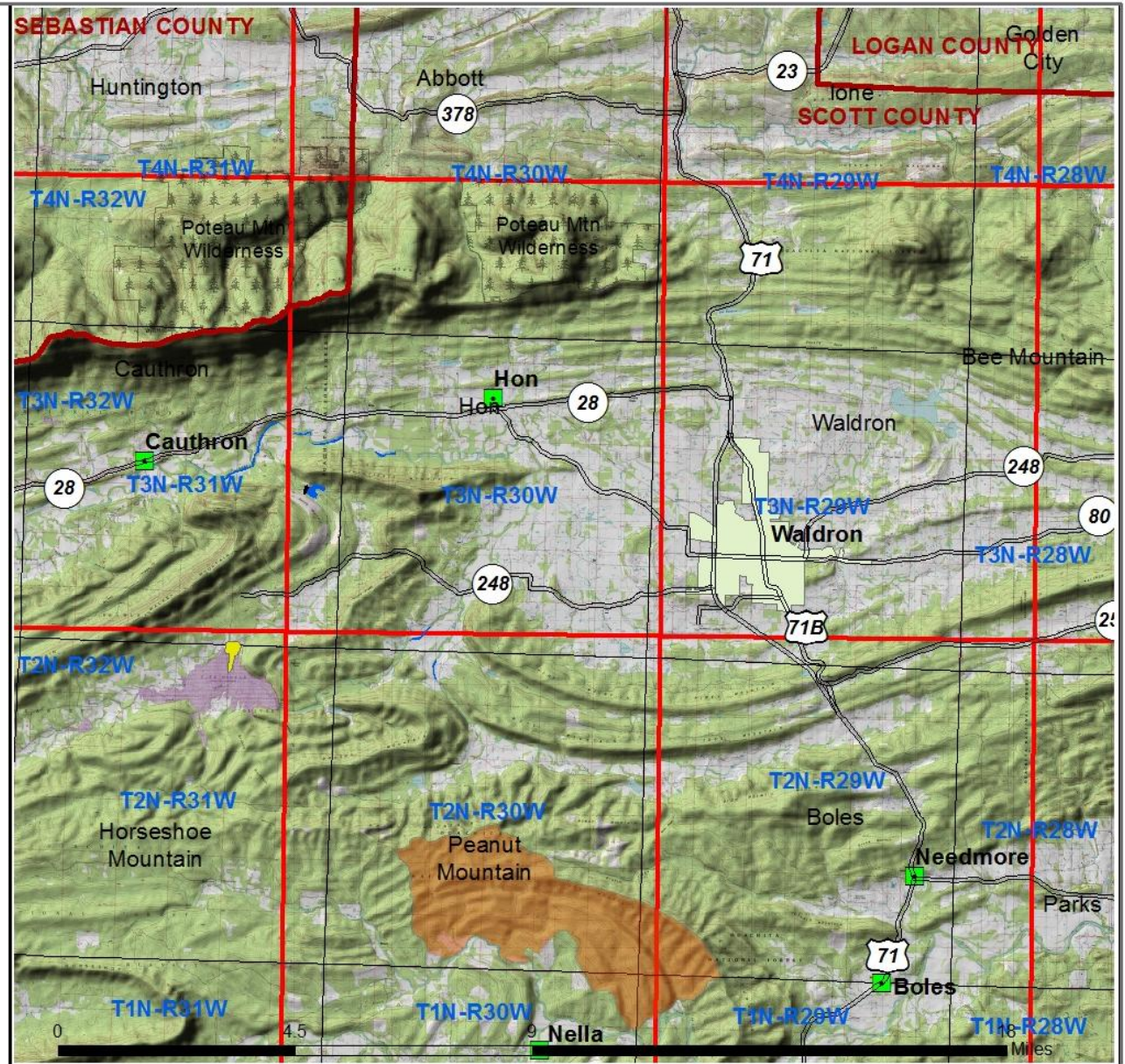
Location

Peanut Mountain project area is in Township 2 North, Range 30 West, Sections 20-23, 25-29, and 32-36; and T2N, R29W, S30-32; T1N R30W S1; and T1N R29W S5-6. This project area is in Scott County, Arkansas. The project area is located approximately 1.5 miles north of the Nella community, approximately 6 miles southwest of Waldron, approximately 3.5 miles southeast of Lake Hinkle, and approximately 3 miles west of Highway 71 South and the Boles Community.

Management Areas

Management actions are needed to move the project area towards the design criteria for Management Area 22 (Renewal of the Shortleaf Pine/Bluestem Grass Ecosystem and Red-cockaded Woodpecker Habitat) in the Revised Forest Plan (USDA Forest Service. 2005a.) as of 12/01/2019. Detailed descriptions of this management areas is located http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/ouachita/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fsm9_039823.

A location map is below.



Summary of existing National Forest lands in the Peanut Mountain analysis area. These are approximate acres only

PROPOSED ACTION SUMMARY OF TREATMENTS PRESCRIBED	C-1260	C-1261	C-1272	C-1280	TOTAL
HARVEST TREATMENTS					
Commercial Thinning - 20' spacing or 70 BA pine (acres)	344	285	0	199	828
Commercial Thinning - 60 BA pine (acres)	575	397	433	677	2,082
subtotal	919	682	433	876	2,910
Modified Seed Tree (acres)	75	0	99	224	398
TOTAL HARVEST TREATMENTS	994	682	532	1100	3,308
SILVULTURAL TREATMENTS					
Reforestation of New Regen Sites (Seed Trees)	75	0	99	224	398
Timber Stand Improvements	0	36	0	0	36
FUELS TREATMENT					
Fireline Maintenance (miles)					27
Fireline Construction (miles)					10.5
Multi-purpose Burning 3-5-year intervals (acres)	2,204	1,406	1,328	1,428	6,366
WILDLIFE TREATMENTS					
WSI - option to use hand tool, herbicides or mechanical (acres) (in thinning and RCW cluster areas)	702	511	457	677	2,347
Nest Boxes (#) (2 per ponds/2 per regen sites)	42	40	8	36	126
Pond Construction (#)					0
Pond Reconstruction (#) (<i>see map for locations</i>)					44
Temporary Wildlife Openings (logging decks - approx #)					113
TRANSPORTATION TREATMENTS					
Construction (miles) (<i>see map for locations</i>)					0.04
Reconstruction (miles) (<i>see map for locations</i>)					6.48
Pre-Haul Maintenance (miles) (<i>see map for locations</i>)					3.60
Temporary Road Construction (miles) (<i>see map for locations</i>)					17.87
Obliteration (miles) (<i>see map for locations</i>)					0.0
Decommissioning (miles) (<i>see map for locations</i>)					5.24
OTHER TREATMENTS					
Firewood Areas (yes/no)					YES
Landline Maintenance (yes/no)					YES
Feral Hog Control (yes/no)					YES

Hardwoods may be harvested in stands identified for pine thinning, where available, leaving a minimum hardwood component of 10 percent of the total basal area in dominant or co-dominant crown classes. Favor oaks and hickories (Revised Forest Plan, VM004, pp. 79) or 10 basal area per acre.

Firelines would be constructed around perimeters of all natural and artificial regeneration areas (i.e. shelterwood, seedtree, or existing regeneration areas). The mechanically constructed fireline would be bladed down to mineral soil and approximately 8 feet wide. Bladed lines would be water barred as necessary on slopes to limit soil movement. Firelines would normally be installed within 50 feet either side of stand boundaries. The purpose of a fireline is for “control” if a prescribed fire is applied to the stands for site preparation and/or to exclude fire during years of stand development.

All Regeneration Stands would have reforestation and timber stand improvement activities (Site Prep Burn, Hand tool site Preparation and/or Mechanical Scarification, and TSI (multiple times if necessary). If activities are not successful, rip and plant with shortleaf pine; hand tool release, herbicide, and pre-commercial thinning may be utilized.) These activities may be repeated as necessary to obtain adequate shortleaf pine regeneration.

Permits would be offered to the public for collection of rocks by private individuals within road construction and reconstruction corridors. That is, rocks can be collected within areas of disturbance associated with road construction and reconstruction. Firewood and shale pit permits may be issued.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) Treatments – If a new RCW cavity tree or a cavity tree cluster is discovered in the process of implementing a timber harvest decision in management areas other than Management Area 22 (i.e. MA 14, 17, 21), the RCW Species Recovery Plan and Ouachita National Forest Revised Forest Plan standards would apply and management of that cavity tree or cavity tree cluster area would begin immediately. In the event a new RCW cavity tree is found or started within this project area, the immediate area, including streamside management zones (Revised Forest Plan standard 22.05 pp. 120), that surround the tree (10 acres) would be identified as an active cluster and all activities associated with enhancing and protecting the cluster would begin. Other activities would include use of cavity restrictors, snake and squirrel excluder devices, artificial cavities, single-bird augmentations, multiple-bird group-initiations, brush hogging in cavity tree clusters, removal of southern flying squirrels, population/nest monitoring, cavity maintenance and southern pine beetle (SPB) and Ips control efforts. In active, inactive, and recruitment clusters, retain no more than 10 square feet of basal area per acre in overstory hardwoods. Remove all hardwoods within 50 feet of cavity trees. (Revised Forest Plan pg 122; 22.17).

Wildlife Monitoring - Continue annual breeding bird monitoring. Maintain existing wildlife openings with RX burning and/or brush hogging as needed. Option to seed native or cool season, as needed, for wildlife habitat. All Wildlife Stand Improvements (WSI) would have option to utilize herbicides, if needed. Two nest boxes would be installed at each pond and regeneration stands.

Matrix of Needed Road Work Peanut Mountain EMU

Road Name	Segment	Type of Work	Description
150	N/A	Reconstruct	Replace Pipe located at approximately M.P. 2.40 and M.P. 3.41. Apply Gravel to Road Surface and add and replace pipe as needed, from M.P. 4.39 to M.P. 4.59 miles and from M.P. 5.41 to M.P. 5.57 0.52 miles. This will remain an open road year-round after harvest.
791	N/A	Reconstruct	Apply Gravel to Road Surface and add and replace pipe as needed, for 0.14 miles from M.P. 0.31 to M.P. 0.45. This will remain an open road year-round after harvest.
896	N/A	Reconstruct	Apply Gravel to Road Surface and add and replace pipe as needed from P80 to P73C for 1.10 miles. Add and replace pipe from P73B to 896A for 0.57 miles
896A	N/A	Reconstruct	Add a concrete slab to the ford located at M.P. 0.61
9791	N/A	Reconstruct	Apply Gravel to Road Surface and add and replace pipe as needed, for 2.40 miles from START to END. This will remain an open road year-round after harvest.
P80	N/A	Reconstruct	Apply Gravel to Road Surface and add and replace pipe as needed, for 1.68 miles from START to M.P. 1.68. This will remain an open road year-round after harvest.
			Total Reconstruction – 6.48 miles.
791	Section 1	Prehaul Maintenance	1.49 miles of dozer blading to smooth roadbed; add surfacing, clean ditches and maintain drainage structure. Road will remain seasonally open after harvest.
791	Section 2	Prehaul Maintenance	0.65 miles of dozer blading to smooth roadbed; add surfacing, clean ditches and maintain drainage structure. Road will become a closed road after harvest.
P60G	N/A	Prehaul Maintenance	0.22 miles of dozer blading to smooth roadbed; add surfacing, clean ditches and maintain drainage structure. Road will remain seasonally open after harvest.
P73B	N/A	Prehaul Maintenance	0.19 miles of dozer blading to smooth roadbed; add surfacing, clean ditches and maintain drainage structure. Road will remain closed after harvest.
P80D	N/A	Prehaul Maintenance	1.05 miles of dozer blading to smooth roadbed; add surfacing, clean ditches and maintain drainage structure. Road will remain closed after harvest.
			Total Prehaul Maintenance – 3.60 miles
Proposed	N/A	Construction	Construction of new road connecting 896 and P73B to 0.40 miles
			Total Construction – 0.40 miles
N/A	NA	Obliteration	N/A
			Total Road Obliteration – 0.0 miles
N/A	N/A	N/A	Portions of P60G, P72, P72A, P72B, P72K, P72Q, P72R, P73
			Total Roads Decommissioned by Nature – 5.24 miles
Temp Roads			17.87 miles – Many of these are old roads that would be opened. A few would be new. All temporary roads would be closed after harvest.
Various		Decks	Approximately 113 decks to be seeded as temporary wildlife openings.

C-1260 STAND	ACRES	LAND CLASS	FUELS	HARVEST			SILVICULTURE		WILDLIFE			
							Reforestation of New Regen Sites (Seed Tree)	Timber Stand Improvements	WSI	NEST BOXES	PONDS	
			Burn 3-5- year Rotation	20' spacing or 70 BA Pine	60 BA Pine	Seed Tree	Site Prep, Natural or Artificial Reforestation, Release, PCT	Site Prep, Natural or Artificial Reforestation, Release, PCT			Existing	New
24	78	500	78	78								
25	260	828 - Unsuitable - Physical Barriers	260									
26	7	828	7									
27	78	593 - Suitable - RCW Foraging Stand for Inactive Cluster	78		78				78	2	1	
28	10	841 - Unsuitable - RCW Cluster Inactive	10		10				10			
29	34	592 - Suitable - RCW Foraging Stand for Recruitment Stand	34		34				34			
30	6	500	6									
31	25	590	25									
32	14	843 - Unsuitable - RCW Replacement Stand	14		14				14			
33	22	590	22		22				22	2	1	
34	27	840 - Unsuitable - RCW Cluster Active	27						27			
25	46	590	46							2	1	
36	17	590	17		17				17			
37	11	842	11						11			
38	5	820 - Unsuitable - MIN Level	5									
39	35	500	35									
40	74	500	74									
41	10	843	10		10				10			
42	10	843	10						10	2	1	

C-1260 STAND	ACRES	LAND CLASS	FUELS	HARVEST			SILVICULTURE		WILDLIFE			
							Reforestation of New Regen Sites (Seed Tree)	Timber Stand Improvements	WSI	NEST BOXES	PONDS	
			Burn 3-5- year Rotation	20' spacing	60 BA Pine	Seed Tree	Site Prep, Natural or Artificial Reforestation, Release, PCT	Site Prep, Natural or Artificial Reforestation, Release, PCT			Existing	New
43	9	590	9		9				9			
44	17	842	17						17			
45	7	842	7						7			
46	11	842	11						11			
47	8	842	8						8			
48	6	590	6		6				6			
49	25	590	25		25				25			
50	10	840	10						10			
51	6	842	6						6			
52	10	840	10						10			
53	1	River	1									
54	39	590	39		39				39			
55	7	590	7		7				7			
56	10	843	10						10			
57	19	500	19									
58	25	500	25			25	25			2		
59	25	592	25			25	25			2		
60	25	500	25			25	25			2		
901	163	Private	0									
902	141	Private	0									
TOTAL	2,508		2,204	344	575	75	75	0	702	42	18	0

C-1261 STAND	ACRES	LAND CLASS	FUELS	HARVEST			SILVICULTURE		WILDLIFE			
							Reforestation of New Regen Sites (Seed Tree)	Timber Stand Improvements	WSI	NEST BOXES	PONDS	
			Burn 3- 5-year Rotation	20' spacing or 70 BA Pine	60 BA Pine	Seed Tree	Site Prep, Natural or Artificial Reforestation, Release, PCT	Site Prep, Natural or Artificial Reforestation, Release, PCT			Existing	New
27	15	590	15									
28	24	840	24		24				24			
29	18	840	18						18			
30	10	843	10		10				10			
31	10	840	10						10			
32	10	843	10						10			
33	10	843	10		10				10			
34	36	500	36					36				
35	13	843	13						13			
36	29	590	29		29				29			
37	17	840	17		17				17	4	1	
38	41	590	41									
39	20	590	20									
40	15	840	15						15	4	1	
41	10	500	10	10								
42	63	500	63	63								
43	7	500	7									
44	23	590	23		23				23			
45	12	828	12									
46	8	820	8									
47	41	500	41	41						4	1	
49	6	500	6									
50	10	843	10		10				10			
51	11	590	11							4	1	
52	10	590	10		10				10			
56	12	843	12						12	4	1	
370	10	840	10		10				10	4	1	
901	20	Private	0									
902	87	Private	0									
TOTAL	1,513		1,406	285	397	0	0	36	511	40	14	0

C-1272 STAND	ACRES	LAND CLASS	FUELS	HARVEST			SILVICULTURE		WILDLIFE			
							Reforestation of New Regen Sites (Seed Tree)	Timber Stand Improvements	WSI	NEST BOXES	PONDS	
			Burn 3-5- year Rotation	20' spacing or 70 BA Pine	60 BA Pine	Seed Tree	Site Prep, Natural or Artificial Reforestation, Release, PCT	Site Prep, Natural or Artificial Reforestation, Release, PCT			Existing	New
1	61	500	61		61				61		1	
2	45	500	45		45				45		1	
3	75	500	75								1	
4	47	500	47		47				47		1	
5	77	500	77		77				77			
6	42	500	42		42				42			
7	122	590	122								2	
8	59	830	59									
9	18	500	18		18				18			
10	30	500	30		30				30			
11	35	500	35									
12	11	840	11						11			
13	276	828	276									
14	73	500	73		73				73			
15	62	830	62									
16	15	500	15									
17	79	500	79									
18	44	500	44									
19	24	500	24			24	24			2		
20	40	500	40		40				40			
21	2	500	2									
22	3	500	3									
23	13	843	13						13			
24	25	500	25			25	25			2		
25	25	500	25			25	25			2		
26	25	500	25			25	25			2		
901	6	Private	0									
TOTAL	1,334		1,328	0	433	99	99	0	457	8	6	0

C-1280 STAND	ACRES	LAND CLASS	FUELS	HARVEST			SILVICULTURE		WILDLIFE			
							Reforestation of New Regen Sites (Seed Tree)	Timber Stand Improvements	WSI	NEST BOXES	PONDS	
			Burn 3- 5-year Rotation	20' spacing or 70 BA Pine	60 BA Pine	Seed Tree	Site Prep, Natural or Artificial Reforestation, Release, PCT	Site Prep, Natural or Artificial Reforestation, Release, PCT			Existing	New
28	25	500	25			25	25			2		
29	25	500	25			25	25			2		
901	64	Private	0									
902	2	Private	0									
TOTAL	1,494		1,428	199	677	224	224	0	677	36	6	0

